



**Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.**

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**Testimony  
Submitted to the  
Program Review and Investigations Committee**

**February 27, 2008**

**SB 329 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW  
AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE BEST PROGRAM**

**SB 330 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM  
REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE BEST PROGRAM**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) supports the request from the State Board of Education to allow them to re-examine the Beginning Educator Support and Training programs over the course of the next year and come back with recommendations for the 2009 General Assembly. We believe that it is important to take the time to review this program thoroughly, rather than undertaking piecemeal modifications. As some of you are aware, the BEST program was a critical component of the over all education reform in the late 1980s, when Connecticut made a significant investment to increase teacher salaries and also to raise teacher standards. After 20 years of implementation, it is appropriate for the State Department of Education to review the on going effectiveness of this program.

With respect to the two specific bills before you today, we are concerned that program changes which significantly impact local and regional boards of education could be adopted with out the necessary resources for implementation. For example, SB 330 would require that boards of education reduce the number of hours of classroom responsibilities for teacher mentors, which would have a significant fiscal impact and create a staffing challenge in teacher shortage areas.

We strongly urge you to reject these bills and defer action until 2009.

We appreciate your attention to these issues.